

# NEWS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

## **HEADQUARTERS STANDARD SYSTEMS GROUP**

*Public Affairs Office*

*490 East Moore Drive*

*MAFB-Gunter Annex AL 36114-3004*

*Telephone: 334-416-4319 DSN: 596-4319*

*FAX: 416-4428*

**E-Mail:** [Darlene.foote@gunter.af.mil](mailto:Darlene.foote@gunter.af.mil)

Release No. 04-04-06

**Release Date: March 2, 2004**

## **Local dog goes national**

*By Master Sgt. Darlene M. Foote*

*SSG Public Affairs*

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE - GUNTER ANNEX, Ala.** – This couple had no way of knowing the “dog days” that lie ahead for them after sending their only son off to college.

However, the empty nest left them looking for something else to fill the center of their world, and sent them searching for a dog, specifically, a West Highland White Terrier or Westie, as they are also known.

“Although it was instant love when we saw Cooper, we had no idea what we were getting into,” said Suebeth Jordan, Chief of Resource Management Computing Services Division, Defense Information Services Agency (DISA)

In less than two years, Bobby Jordan, who works as a senior functional analyst for Headquarters Standard Systems Group and his wife, Suebeth, went from just wanting a pet to having one of the best Westies in the nation.

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Their dog, Glengrogan Cooper's Kilt "Cooper" recently became the first West Highland Terrier to take "Best in Show," before his second birthday and was subsequently invited to the Eukanuba National Invitational Event, reserved for the top 25 dogs in the country, and won that event as well. "Most dogs don't even compete at this level until their three years old," said Mr. Jordan. The event was televised on the Discovery and Animal Planet channels. From there Cooper was invited to Westminster Kennel Club, Madison Square Garden, N.Y.

According to the couple, Cooper is not the only rarity in the business. "It's rare to see amateurs like us, who are simply hobby show people succeed at this level," he said. "People put a lot of money into this sport, but it can be as expensive or inexpensive as desired," said the couple who are operating on a shoestring budget as compared to most who participate in the sport.

While showing and taking care of a dog, has turned out to be quite a bit of work, the Jordans truly enjoy it. "Our pets have actually become a hobby. Showing a breed like this takes a lot more than just going out on the weekends, it takes daily dedication," said Mrs. Jordan. That includes working on the dog's coat, grooming, washing, trimming nails and much more.

The biggest challenge for the Jordan's over the last two years was to learn more about the importance of the word "sport". "We preached good sportsmanship to our son for years who was an athlete for St James School, and now we have an opportunity to practice what we've preached," they said.

The couple says they have learned a lot about show dogs, but nothing more significant than the importance of responsible pet ownership and selection.

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“Regardless of whether someone wants a show dog or a family pet for enjoyment, there are a few things they need to know ... the pet needs to match up with they’re expectations, environment and lifestyle among other things,” said Mrs. Jordan. Potential pet owners should contact the local community kennel club for more information before purchasing or adopting a pet.

Two years after facing the empty nest, their corvettes are gone replaced with a Yukon and RV. “Our new goals in life ... to be the kind of people our dogs think we are, and to see our son when we can, and when there aren’t any dog shows.”

Although Cooper didn’t win at Westminster, which is the longest running dog show in the U.S., he did receive an Award of Merit, which equates to second place ... not bad for amateurs.

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